

6, Bridgford Road,

WEST BRIDGFORD.

31st March 1922.



To The Chairman & Members of

THE WEST BRIDGFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1921.

These Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health are primarily for the information of the Local Authorities to whom they are addressed, and for the inhabitants who are entitled to be informed periodically of the Sanitary condition of their district.

Secondly, they are for the use of the Ministry of Health, and for this reason it is necessary to include in them details which would seem redundant if they were intended for local perusal only. For instance, the information in this report concerning the vital statistics of the district has been already - in some degree - presented to you in my quarterly reports.

In Urban Districts like your own, these Annual Reports are of use to the County Council to enable that body to see whether the Public Health Acts (1875) have been properly carried out.

Six copies of these reports are to be sent to the Ministry of Health - a copy to the Home Office - a copy to the National League of Health, and copies to various other bodies interested in Public Health matters.

At the expressed wish of your Council, and by reason of the extreme necessity for economy, I have made this report as short as possible, consistent with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. I have, however, introduced some remarks

on other subjects which I hope will prove interesting to the Members of this Council.

From a meteorological aspect, 1921 was one of the driest years on record, with great alterations in climatic conditions. The public health did not, however, suffer. There was no serious epidemic, and the death-rate was low. Towards the end of the year Influenza appeared. The type was not severe, though a good many fatal cases occurred throughout the country.

NATIONALLY, perhaps the most important event of the year was the taking of a Census of the people. This took place on the 24th June. The earliest recorded Census or National Stock-taking, occurred in the time of Moses - the second being in the time of David. This method of counting the people in this country first took place in 1801, and has occurred regularly every ten years ever since.

The Census records the increase or decrease of the population at various ages, and the rise and fall in the average length of life, and other information of importance.

An accurate estimate of a population forms the natural basis of all vital statistics.

LOCALLY, the most interesting event in the year was the unveiling, on the 5th June, of the Civic War Memorial, to the memory of those who had fallen in the War.

The Cenotaph is of pleasing design, and is situated in the Council's private grounds. It bears the names of 189 of the young manhood of the parish who gave their lives for their King and Country. It bears the following suitable inscription. Propatria -

"The Victor Heroes rest in many lands,
But here the symbol of their glory stands."

POPULATION. At the 1911 Census, the population of West Bridgford was 11,632. At the 1921 Census, the population

was 15,260, an increase of 1,628. Had it been possible during these intervening years to build houses to meet the demand, the population would have been greatly increased.

Of the three Urban Districts in the County with populations approximately that of West Bridgford, namely, Arnold, Beeston, and Mansfield Woodhouse, Arnold shews a gain in population of only 654, Beeston a gain of 1,132, and Mansfield Woodhouse a gain of 2,450.

The increase of the population of the County of Nottingham was 34,279, or 9.9 per cent, and for the whole of England the increase was only 5 per cent. Allowing for the diminished death-rate, and for the number of lives lost in the war, the increase must be considered fairly satisfactory. Every Urban District in the County shewed an increase amounting to 28,416. These varied from East Retford, with an increase of only 27, to Mansfield, with an increase of 7,530, the average of the 15 Urban Districts being 1,894. West Bridgford was just under this average.

The rateable value of the property in your parish assessable to the General District rate was £67,818. A penny rate is estimated to produce £284 net. The present rate is 5/9 in the £1, and is estimated to produce £19,422 gross.

The number of inhabited houses was 3,616. At mid-summer there were 17 unoccupied houses - these being for sale only. The average number of inhabitants per house is only 3.7, surely an extraordinary state of affairs, due entirely to the large number of childless homes in the parish - a most unpleasant and alarming feature of our social life.

Deaths. 121 deaths were registered. 46 males, and 75 females. The monthly deaths were as follows:-

January	...	...	13	deaths.
February	...	...	10	"
March	...	...	13	"
April	...	...	9	"
May	8	"
June	6	"
July	7	"
August	5	"
September	8	"
October	11	"
November	12	"
December	19	"
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There were 14 deaths of children under the age of one year.

22 deaths over 60 years of age, or 19%.

23 " " 70 " " " or 20%.

14 " " 80 " " " or 12%.

And 2 deaths over the age of 90, these being 95 and 99.

The chief causes of death were as follows:-

Consumption	...	...	...	...	11	deaths.
Pulmonary diseases other than						
Consumption	...	...	...	...	13	"
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	13	"
Cerebral Disease including Apoplexy	...	...	...	...	14	"
Renal Disease	...	...	...	...	4	"
Cancer	...	...	...	...	15	"
Tubercular Disease	...	...	...	...	3	"
Influenza and its complications	...	...	...	...	5	"
Senile Decay	...	...	...	...	14	"
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	6	"

There was one accidental death and 2 suicides.

There were 5 inward deaths, i.e., 5 people died in the Parish who did not belong to it, or reside in it. 12 residents of the parish died away from home, chiefly in hospitals. This gives the net deaths as 128. (121 + 12 - 5).

The net death-rate for the year was 9.7 per 1,000.

The death-rate for 1920 was 8.7 per 1,000.

INFANT MORTALITY.

14 infants died before completing their first year of life. This gives an infant mortality of 63 per one thousand births. Of the 14 deaths, 7 died in one of the Nursing Homes in the parish - a high rate of mortality.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The special areas in which this work is carried out by the County Council are chiefly Rural Districts - eight in number - but the Urban District of Carlton and West Bridgford are included. Child Welfare work is supervised by a Lady Doctor, with a Staff of 19 Health Visitors and District Nurses.

The inhabitants of West Bridgford being largely of the middle class, there is little scope in this direction. There are now 2,000 of such centres in the Country, and 50,000 mothers bring their babies to the various centres during a week. The result has proved a great lowering of infant mortality. The local district Nursing Association continues its good work. During 1921, Nurse Simpson visited 45 patients with a total of 591 visits. Of these, 315 needed financial help from the Association to the extent of £36. 7. 6. The services of the Nurse are available for all who need them - those able to pay are expected to do so - those who are not, are expected to contribute according to their means. In Maternity and Child Welfare work, the grant of money by Parliament for special measures has been followed by a pronounced drop in infantile mortality.

BIRTHS.

222 births were registered. 110 boys and 112 girls. Of this total, 59 were born to parents residing outside the parish, but who were confined in one or other of the two Nursing Homes in the parish. The domestic servant difficulty has much

to do with this modern innovation. The net births were therefore 163 as compared with 180 births during 1920. There were 5 illegitimate births.

The birth-rate is 12.3 per 1,000 of the population.

The birth-rate in the country generally shows a welcome recovery since the Armistice.

During the war the rate fell to 17.7 per 1,000. In 1920 it had risen to 25.4. The lower classes still shew more fertility than the middle and upper classes. Coal miners have the largest families. Agricultural labourers come next.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT.

Of the 222 births registered, only 66 were notified under this Act.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

78 cases were notified as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	...	...	49.
Diphtheria	...	...	11.
Influenzal Pneumonia	...	...	5.
Tuberculosis	...	...	6.
Erysipelas	...	...	4.
Malaria	...	...	2.
Enteric Fever	...	...	1.

39 cases were notified in the first quarter of the year; 17 cases in the second quarter; 11 cases in the third quarter, and 11 cases in the last quarter. The Malarial cases were two returned soldiers.

The case of Enteric Fever was imported: The patient contracted the disease while on a holiday at Southport. West Bridgford has been quite free from Enteric for many years.

The arrangement for the admission of infectious cases to the Basford Sanatorium still exists. No cases were sent there during the year.

As from 1st September last the fee for the notification of Infectious Diseases, by Private Medical Practitioners, including tuberculosis, has been raised to 2/6, which was the pre-war fee. Notification to the Medical Officer of any public body or institute is paid for at the rate of one shilling for each notification.

SCARLET FEVER. 49 cases were notified, mostly of children attending school. The disease continues to be of a very mild type. There were no deaths, and no removals to hospital. 50 years ago Scarlet Fever was a dreaded and deadly disease, killing 30,000 young people every year. Now, the total deaths in the United Kingdom are under 1,000. In a recent epidemic in Edinburgh, there were 337 cases with only one death.

DIPHTHERIA. 11 cases were notified, and all recovered. The disease is endemic - the Country is never free from it. Notification should be limited to persons actually suffering from the disease as verified by bacteriological evidence of the presence of the diphtheria bacillus. Many children attending school are found to have bacilli in their throats, although they may be perfectly well - the bacilli in such cases are of a non-virulent character. The child is, in all probability, not dangerous to others. These non-virulent bacilli are not known to change into virulent organisms.

Antitoxin treatment has rendered Diphtheria comparatively harmless. Your Council is prepared to supply the antitoxin free in necessitous cases - so far I have had only one application for such, which was not granted. All these 11 cases were treated at home. With ordinary precautions, this is quite easily accomplished, and with very little risk.

By an arrangement with the Nottingham Corporation, bacteriological swabs can be examined at the Laboratory, 17, Park Row, at a reasonable charge per specimen.

TUBERCULOSIS. 11 cases were notified. Consumption is not common in West Bridgford. The mortality throughout the country is less than half what it was 40 years ago. A high tubercular mortality is often associated with defective ventilation; hence the importance of having our dwellings well swept with fresh air, more especially the bedrooms. Bedroom windows should always be kept open during the night, in all weathers. There is no risk whatever in this: The number of notifications of consumption, and the number of deaths in the country continue to show a steady decrease and are full of encouragement, and witness a steady conquest of this disease.

SMALLPOX. During the summer months this disease was prevalent in Nottingham. The type was mild. Fortunately, your parish escaped. A good many of the inhabitants took the precaution of being revaccinated. Thanks to vaccination and re-vaccination, smallpox no longer takes its toll of life in thousands. The large majority of those attacked had been unvaccinated.

When smallpox appears, it visits with strict impartiality healthy and unhealthy districts, and the incidence of attack and death fall on rich and poor alike, subject to one condition only - the absence or the presence of the protection afforded by vaccination.

INFLUENZA. This scourge again made its appearance during the latter end of the year. Curiously enough, it first appeared in our own county in November. It almost immediately spread north and south, and latterly east and west. There were a good many cases in the parish, and although the type of the disease was, on the whole mild, there were five deaths recorded as due to influenzal pneumonia. All these deaths occurred in December. Pneumonia is the commonest and most fatal complication of Influenza.

Influenza was prevalent on the Continent at the same time -

its ravages extending from Norway in the North, to Italy in the South. Bacteriological work is now being carried out at various laboratories in connection with the epidemic, the results of which will be recorded in due course.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION. During the year the conversion of the pail closets to the water carriage system was completed. Scavenging is still carried out by your Council's own staff of workmen. It has been found quicker and more economical to have the necessary cartage done by motor lorries, hence horse traction is being dispensed with.

DISINFECTION. Bedding, Clothing, etc. from infected houses are very satisfactorily disinfected by your own staff. The work is done well and very expeditiously. During the year 48 cases of disinfection were carried out.

Your Council have arranged, at the request of the Bingham Rural District Council, to collect and disinfect bedding and clothing from a part of their district, the Bingham Council paying your Council's charges for the same.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. Your Council has given a good deal of attention to this subject during the year.

In May, I presented a full report on the condition of these, followed by a further report in June.

The Cowsheds are now under the supervision of your Assistant Sanitary Inspector, who visits them regularly once a month, and presents to you a report after each inspection. These visits have resulted in a considerable improvement in the condition of the cowsheds.

Your Council has, on various occasions, discussed the question of Milk Contamination, and has perhaps attached too much blame to the farmer. My own opinion is that milk is frequently contaminated in transit. In this connection, I would draw your attention to the following letter addressed to the M. O. H. for Nottingham, who forwarded it to me :-

30, Stockwell Park Rd.,
LONDON. S. W. 9.
25th. January 1922.

To The Officer of Health,
NOTTINGHAM.

Dear Sir,

In the interests of the Public Health, I wish to describe an incident which I saw from my bed-room window on Radcliffe Road, West Bridgford, about a fortnight ago, when in Nottingham.

A large motor of milk churns arrived from the country and deposited a churn to a local man near Fox Road, who had a small cart and cycle, the name on the sidecar was ----- . The milk was transferred to his churn, which had some kind of lace on top to strain. After this, he took off the lace and squeezed it with his dirty hands in the milk and then scraped his hands on top of his churn, which took the filth and milk from his hands into the milk for sale, and then started on his rounds.

Faithfully yours,

E. G. Brown.

HOUSING. During the year nearly all the 50 houses built by your Council were completed, and nearly all are either occupied, or will be shortly occupied.

The houses, though small, are of pleasing design, and the lay-out of the district when completed, will be an acquisition to the parish. The worst feature of these houses is the want of an Annex for storing bulky articles such as the perambulator, dolly-tub, and such like. The tenants are ex-service men.

The total number of working-class dwellings in the parish

is about 300. There are no houses unfit for habitation, and no proceedings have ever been taken under the Inspection of District Regulations Act of 1910: No closing orders were therefore necessary, and no demolition orders. All the houses in the parish comply with the building bye-laws of the Local Authority under the Housing & Town Planning Act of 1919. There is still shortage of houses. Many young married couples have either to go into lodgings, take furnished apartments, or remain in either of their parents' homes.

MOTOR AMBULANCE. During the year your Council provided a Motor Ambulance for the convenience of the inhabitants for cases of non-infectious illnesses or accidents requiring removal. Applicants for its use should apply at the Public Office.

For removal of infectious cases the Motor Ambulance of the Basford Infectious Hospital is still employed.

ALLOTMENTS. Your Council, always alive to the reasonable wants of the parishioners, have greatly increased the number of these. Over 100 have recently been laid out - making a total of 420 allotments in the parish. These afford pleasure and recreation for the holders, with considerable financial gain as a result.

FIRE BRIGADE. This has been completely re-organised. The staff is now confined to your Council's workmen. The General Foreman acts as Captain, under the supervision of Mr. Pare. The equipment is now stationed at the Farm Depot, and is now motor driven. There is an efficient staff of motor drivers.

Fire calls can be despatched from any of the six telephone stations which have been recently erected in the parish.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that the Country will shortly enter upon a period of great prosperity in which your delightful and well-managed parish will have its due share.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER HUNTER.

Medical Officer of Health.

